

DHS Broadcast Message on New 384 Class of Admission Code

SUMMARY: DHS personnel are asked to become familiar with a new code in the Central Index System (CIS). The new Class of Admission (COA) code “384” was created to alert DHS personnel that the individual is protected by confidentiality provisions. Information about the location, status, or other identifying information of any individual with the code “384” may not be released.

Section 384 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), commonly referred to as “384 provisions,” protects the confidentiality of victims of domestic violence, trafficking, and other crimes who have filed for or have been granted immigration relief. Anyone who willfully uses, publishes, or permits any information pertaining to such victims to be disclosed in violation of section 384 of IIRIRA will face disciplinary action and may be subject to a civil money penalty of up to \$5,000 for each violation. Therefore, in order to fully comply with and prevent violations of these confidentiality provisions, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has developed a quick and reliable method for DHS components to verify whether an individual has a pending or an approved Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petition or T or U nonimmigrant status petition/application.

Considering that DHS components have access to and knowledge of the Central Index System (CIS), USCIS has added a new Class of Admission (COA) code of “384” to CIS as a means to alert components that the individual is covered by the confidentiality provisions of section 384 of IIRIRA. When an individual files a VAWA self-petition (Form I-360), T nonimmigrant application (Form I-914 or Form I-914 *Supplement A*), or U nonimmigrant petition (Form I-918 or Form I-918 *Supplement A*) with USCIS, the COA in CIS will be updated to 384. Once the pending VAWA, T, or U petition/application is adjudicated, the COA will be updated to reflect the correct classification, which is unique to each type of immigration relief. However, DHS personnel can continue to identify the individual as covered by the confidentiality provisions of section 384 of IIRIRA via the history screen in CIS because the 384 code will be maintained in CIS. In addition, when the individual applies for subsequent benefits, such as adjustment of status, the COA will be populated accordingly; however, the CIS history screen will continue to include the 384 code, identifying the individual as being covered by the confidentiality provisions. If the petition/application is denied, the confidentiality provisions will continue to apply to the individual until all final appeal rights are exhausted.

It is also imperative to note that the 384 code is for informational purposes only, to alert anyone viewing CIS that the confidentiality provision of section 384 of IIRIRA applies to that individual. It is not meant to replace the individual's current COA.

More information on the confidentiality provisions of section 384 of IIRIRA and how to comply will be provided to DHS personnel through a web-based training course available on each DHS Component's learning management system. This course has been developed by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), with funding support from USCIS Ombudsman and DHS Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, with input from USCIS, ICE, CBP/OBP, CRCL and FLETC.